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BUSINESS & LABOR
EXHIBIT NO. 7114th Ave N
DATE Billings, MT 59101
BILL NO. HB 354

February 17, 2011

Montana State Senate
PO BOX 200500
Helena, MT 59620-0500

Dear Montana State Senator:

On behalf of Safe Kids Yellowstone County, I urge you to reject HB 354, legislation that would eliminate the requirement for carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in rental properties. Repealing the current CO alarm law will leave Montana residents who rent unprotected from CO poisoning, which can cause serious injury and death.

According to the CDC, Montana (along with Alaska, Wyoming, North Dakota, and Nebraska) has one of the highest death rates from CO poisoning. Between 1999 and 2004, Montana had 23 unintentional deaths from Carbon Monoxide. The reasons stated are "likely because of variations in weather and geography and state-by-state variations in prevalence of certain risk behaviors." That does not include the number of people that are treated for carbon monoxide poisoning.

CO alarms are the single most effective safety device available to prevent CO poisoning. They are inexpensive, easy to maintain, and have been found proven to save lives. On behalf of Safe Kids Yellowstone County, please vote **against** passage of HB 354.

Thank you.


Koren Bloom

Community organizations united to prevent accidental injuries to children through education and public awareness.